WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR 1894.

WALTERS & Co , Printers, *Gazette* Office. Weston-super-Mare.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH,

FOR 1894.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Weston-super-Mare.

GENTLEMEN,

From the Registrar's returns I find that, during the year 1894, 331 births (169 males and 162 females), were registered in the District, giving a birth-rate of 20·8 per 1,000 of the population (census 1891), viz. : 15,869. The number of Births for 1893 was 321, showing an increase of 10 in 1894.

During the same period the deaths of 206 persons (100 males and 106 females), were registered in the District, being a decrease of 47 on the number in 1893, and giving a death rate of 12·98 per 1,000 of the population (census, 1891). Twenty-nine, or 14 per cent. of the deaths recorded, were of children under one year of age, and seventy, or 33·98 per cent. of persons aged 65 and upwards, viz : 20 between 65 and 70, 36 between 70 and 80, and 14 between 80 and 90, giving an average of 67 years 8 months.

The deaths registered from the principal zymotic diseases number 15, as against 11 in 1893, and give a death-rate of 0·94 per 1,000 of the population. To show the localities in which the deaths occurred, I have divided the town into the four Ecclesiastical and Moorland Road Districts, viz. :

District.	*Population.*	*Deaths.*	*Rate per 1000.*
Trinity.....	1272	18	14·1
St. John's	4285	43	10
Emmanuel	4321	56	12·8
Christ Church	5651	85	15
Moorland Road	340	4	11·17
	15869	206	

The list of deaths includes 17 visitors, 20 in the General Hospital, two in the Royal Sanatorium, one in the Statutory Hospital, and eight requiring the Coroner's inquisition.

The following table shows the number of deaths from all causes, and those from the seven principal zymotic diseases for the past ten years :—

Deaths from all causes.

1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
224	230	266	198	246	282	257	262	253	206

Deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases.

12	14	40	17	15	22	5	33	11	15

During the year 54 notifications of infectious diseases were received, of which 45 were of scarlatina, six of erysipelas, two of diphtheria, and one of puerperal fever.

Small Pox.—No case occurred in the district.

Scarlatina.—Forty-five cases were notified, 19 occurring in the first quarter, 12, 10, and 4 in the following quarters respectively. The cases appeared chiefly in the Christ Church and Emmanuel districts, these two being responsible for three-fourths of the number. Many of the cases were imported into the town. As each case was notified every precaution was taken to prevent the spread of the disease, but fortunately, with one exception, all were of a mild type, and only one death is due to this malady. Eighteen cases were removed to the Statutory Hospital.

Diphtheria.—Two cases only were reported, one occurring in a young person in the Christ Church district in June, being attributable to the insanitary condition of the drains and defective ventilation. The other occurred in the person of a young girl, a visitor, in September, in the Trinity district. This case was undoubtedly contracted before her arrival in Weston, as her parents' house was afterwards certified to be in a very insanitary state.

Diarrhœa, from which six deaths are returned, was not prevalent at any time of the year. Three of the deaths occurred in infants under five months of age, and were probably due to mal nutrition. Two were in persons aged 87 and 70 years respectively, and one in a person aged 55 years, and which was certified as "dysenteric diarrhœa, five years." Two occurred in Emmanuel, two in St. John's, one in Christ Church, and one in Trinity districts respectively.

Measles were rather prevalent during the months of July and August, and six deaths are due to this complaint, all in children under two years of age; four occurred in the Christ Church, and two in the Emmanuel districts respectively. This disease is not notified in the district.

Whooping Cough was not prevalent, only a few cases presenting themselves in the first quarter. Two deaths are returned from this complaint in infants, aged 15, and five months respectively ; one in Christ Church, and one in the Emmanuel districts.

Enteric Fever.—No case was notified in the district.

Reverting now to a subject to which I have already alluded in my last two annual reports—the insufficient hospital accommodation for infectious diseases—I may mention that in August last a memorial, signed by several practitioners in the town, was presented to your predecessors, the Local Sanitary Board, pointing out the deficiencies of the

Statutory Hospital, and calling for increased facilities in the isolation and treatment of *paying patients.* A Committee of the Board met these medical gentlemen and myself, and inspected several possible sites for such isolation wards, but without coming to a decision. Meanwhile, under the supervision of the new custodians, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, who were appointed in August last, I have to report that a number of needful alterations at the Statutory Hospital have been executed, and that the building, and its furnishings, have been brought more nearly into harmony with modern requirements.

A few additional improvements only are needed to perfect the present Hospital. The question of paying wards, however, still remains open, and I would suggest that no simpler, or more effective plan could be adopted than to extend the present premises by carrying out a corridor from the entrance hall, (removing the wall opposite the front door for this purpose), and raising two paying wards, with appurtenances, to open off this corridor. The rubbish heaps at the back must be removed, and the space around the building laid out with grass, shrubs, walks, and borders.

These alterations could be carried out at small cost, and with the additional advantage of concentrating infectious cases of all classes, at a convenient, and yet sufficiently insulated part, of the town.

In my last report I mentioned the question of a New Cemetery, a subject which has been dormant for some little time, and must, as I said before, speedily become one of urgent sanitary importance; and now that the power has been transferred from the Burial Board to your Authority to provide further accommodation, I feel it my duty to again call your attention to this most important matter.

Tables (A) and (B), which I append, are tabulated statements of the deaths registered, and of the sickness in the district, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.

I also append a table showing particulars of Sanitary Work done by your Inspector.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to congratulate you on the low rate of mortality, and especially from zymotic diseases; a condition of affairs which, I think, speaks well for the general sanitary condition of the town over whose interests you preside.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

CHAS. VERNON HITCHINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Wyndham Villa,
February 11th, 1895.

(A) *TABLE OF* DEATHS *during the Year 1894, in the Weston-super-Mare Urban District, classified according to* DISEASES, AGES, *and* LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.) (a)	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined Ages. At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 & under 5. (d)	5 & under 15. (e)	15 & under 25. (f)	25 & under 65. (g)	65 & upwards. (h)	(i)	1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Fevers. Typhus.	6 Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Continued	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal.	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12 Measles.	13 Whooping Cough.	14 Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	15 Rheumatic Fever.	16 Ague.	17 Phthisis.	18 Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	19 Heart Disease.	20 Injuries.	21 All other Diseases.	22 Total.
Weston-super-Mare	206	29	15	9	17	66	70	Under 5											1	6	2	3			1	8	1		22	44
								5 upwds.		1							1					3			20	25	25	3	84	162
Weston-super-Mare Hospital	20		2		3	10	5	Under 5																		1			1	2
								5 upwds.																	2	1	2	1	12	18
Royal Sanatorium	2					2		Under 5																						
								5 upwds.																		1			1	2
Statutory Hospital	1				1			Under 5																						
								5 upwds.		1																				1
Totals	206	29	15	9	17	66	70	Under 5											1	6	2	3			1	8	1		22	44
								5 upwds.		1							1					3			20	25	25	3	84	162

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.								Under 5																						
								5 upwds.																						
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.								Under 5														1								1
	17	1			1	10	5	5 upwds																	3	1	4		8	16

(B) *TABLE OF* POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, *coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Weston-super-Mare Urban District; classified according to* DISEASES, AGES, *and* LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	Population at all ages. Census 1891. (b)	Estimated to middle of 1894. (c)	Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. 1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Fevers. Typhus.	6 Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Continued	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal.	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12	13	Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital. 1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Fevers. Typhus.	6 Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Continued	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal.	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12	13
Weston-super-Mare	15869	16800	331	Under 5		4									1															
				5 upwds		41	2						1		5															
Infectious Wards of General Hospital				Under 5																										
				5 upwds			1								1					1								1		
Statutory Hospital				Under 5		3													3											
				5 upwds		15													15											
Totals	15869	16800	331	Under 5		4									1				3											
				5 upwds		41	2						1		5				15	1								1		

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District. Since when? 1st January, 1890. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the Sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated—Statutory Hospital.

Birth Rate Per 1000 Population.	Death Rate Per 1000 Population.	Infant Mortality. Per 1000 Deaths.	Infant Mortality. Per 1000 Births.	Deaths from Zymotic Diseases. Per 1000 Population.	Deaths from Zymotic Diseases. Per 1000 Deaths.
20·8	12·98	140	87·6	0·94	72·8

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1894.

Accumulation of offensive matters removed	28
Bakehouse Inspections	35
Common Lodging-house Inspections...	12
Cases of Overcrowding abated	3
Cesspit and Foul Cisterns cleansed	3
Dairy and Milkshops Inspected	12
Drains Cleansed and Repaired	49
Foul Closets and Privies Cleansed	67
,, ,, Provided with Sanitary Pans	98
,, Sinks trapped outside	62
Drains tested with Smoke Machine	76
Drains relaid...	28
Soil Pipes Ventilated	27
Sanitary Inspection of Premises by request	54
Written Reports given on Villas, etc....	20
Number of Premises received Sanitary Certificate	18
Sanitary Inspections of School Premises	20
Rooms and Premises Fumigated	37
Premises Cleansed and Lime-washed	31
Slaughter-house Inspections	22
Miscellaneous Nuisances removed	16
Samples of well water tested	2
Number of New Connections to Town Water Supply	79
Number of Notices to remedy Water Waste and Leakages	182
Work-rooms Inspected	20
Sanitary Improvements effected	4
Number of Notices served to remedy Sanitary Defects	220
Number of Legal Proceedings taken and Convictions obtained	6
,, ,, Articles Destroyed—one bed, and bedding, and nurses' bag ...	—
,, ,, Premises Inspected	891

REMARKS.—House to house inspection has been continued, and special reports made on the sanitary condition of 254 premises, and sanitary improvements carried out in 150 of them.

H. HILLMAN, Sanitary Inspector.